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perpendicular to the blade in at least two directions transverse to the lengthwise edge of the blade at the free end of the blade with no portion of the tab extending substantially beyond said plane that is perpendicular to blade.

This is not taught or suggested by any of the cited references. In particular, Ballou provides a tape attachment adapted to be connected to a tape ring, the tape attachment having a barbed end or prong 7 which protrudes outwardly from the end of the tape blade 3 and which is "arranged to be inserted into an object as clearly shown in Fig. 4." (Col.1, lines 52-55.) McCully discloses a tape (10) having a foldable hook (14) with a tab (18) which engages the edge of a surface being measured when the hook (14) is swung down to an erect or working position. Canfield discloses a measuring, marking, and cutting tool comprising a tape measuring devise having a pencil/knife holding attachment which is attached to a clip (14) that has an outwardly extending aligning knob (92). Further, neither Drechsler nor Pinney teach or suggest the measuring tape recited in applicant's proposed amended claim 1 set out above.

Proposed amended claim 17 is drawn to a measuring tape that is provided with a removable tab that is

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attachable to the free end of the blade for temporarily and removably hooking the free end of the blade to a first point and recites that the tab when attached to the free end of the blade extends, as was recited in proposed amended claim 1, "in a plane perpendicular to the blade in at least two directions transverse to a lengthwise edge of the blade of the free end of the blade with no portion of the tab extending substantially beyond said plane that is perpendicular to the blade". Like proposed amended claim 1, applicant's proposed amended claim 17 is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

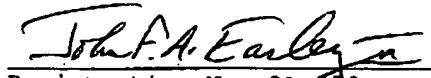
Applicant's proposed amended claim 18 has been amended to add the claim element of first and second sets of indicia being imprinted on the blade of the measuring tape set out in proposed amended claim 17. The newly added language to proposed amended claim 17 has been removed from claim 17.

Applicant's proposed amended claim 22 is drawn to a removable tab extension attachable to the free end of a blade of a measuring tape and recites that the tab extension includes "a hooking device portion extending in a plane perpendicular to the blade in at least two directions transverse to a lengthwise edge of the blade of the measuring tape at the free end of the blade when

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the tab extension is attached to the tab of the measuring tape with no portion of the tab and the tab extension extending substantially beyond the plane that is perpendicular to the blade when the tab extension is attached to the tab of the measuring tape". As with proposed amended claims 1 and 17, this claim language is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Respectfully submitted,  
JOHN F. A. EARLEY  
JOHN F. A. EARLEY III  
JOSEPH M. KONIECZNY  
FRANK J. BONINI, JR.  
HARDING, EARLEY, FOLLMER & FRAILEY  
Attorneys for Applicant

  
Registration No. 31350  
P.O. Box 750  
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0750  
Telephone: (610) 935-2300

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